

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of this amendment, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the pending application.

Please amend claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-29 and 32 and cancel claim 31 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating access by application programs to native resources provided by an operating system, the method comprising instructing a suitably programmed computer to perform the steps of:

(a) redirecting to an isolation environment comprising a user isolation ~~scope~~ layer and an application isolation ~~scope~~ layer a request for a native resource provided by an operating system and stored in a memory element provided by a computer, the request made by a process executing on behalf of a first user;

(b) locating in the memory element an instance of the requested resource associated with ~~a~~ in the user isolation scope provided by the user isolation layer on behalf of a first user; and

(c) responding to the request for the native resource using the instance of the requested native resource located in the memory element and associated with the user isolation scope.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises failing to locate an instance of the requested native resource ~~in~~ associated with the user isolation scope.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein step (c) comprises redirecting the request to the application isolation layer ~~scope~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

(d) locating in the memory element an instance of the requested native resource ~~in the~~ associated with an application isolation scope provided by the application isolation layer; and

(e) responding to the request for the native resource using the instance of the requested native resource located in the memory element and associated with the application isolation scope.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein step (e) comprises creating an instance of the requested native resource ~~in associated with~~ the user isolation scope that corresponds to the instance of the requested native resource ~~located in~~ associated with the application isolation scope and responding to the request for the native resource using the created instance of the requested native resource ~~created in~~ associated with the user isolation scope.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein step (d) comprises failing to locate an instance of the requested native resource in the memory element and associated with the application isolation scope.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein step (e) comprises responding to the request for the native resource using a system-scoped native resource.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein step (e) comprises:

creating an instance of the requested native resource ~~in associated with~~ the user isolation scope that corresponds to the instance of the requested resource ~~located in~~ associated with a system scope and responding to the request for the native resource using the created instance of the resource ~~created in~~ associated with the user isolation scope.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of hooking a request for a native resource made by a process executing on behalf of a first user.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of intercepting a request for a native resource made by a process executing on behalf of a first user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of intercepting by a file system filter driver a request for a file system native resource made by a process executing on behalf of a first user.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises redirecting to an isolation environment comprising a user isolation scope layer and an application isolation scope

layer a request for a file stored in a memory element provided by a computer, the request made by a process executing on behalf of a first user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises redirecting to an isolation environment comprising a user isolation ~~scope~~ layer and an application isolation ~~scope~~ layer a request for a registry database entry stored in a memory element provided by a computer, the request made by a process executing on behalf of a first user.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(d) redirecting to the isolation environment a request for the native resource made by a second process executing on behalf of a second user;

(e) locating in the memory element an instance of the requested native resource ~~in a~~ associated with a second user isolation scope provided by the user isolation layer on behalf of the second user; and

(f) responding to the request for the native resource using the instance of the native resource located in the memory element and associated with the second user isolation scope.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the process executes concurrently on behalf of a first user and a second user.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein step (e) comprises failing to locate an instance of the requested native resource ~~in~~ associated with the second user isolation scope.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein step (f) comprises redirecting the request to the application isolation layer ~~scope~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

(d) locating in the memory element an instance of the requested native resource ~~in the~~ associated with an application isolation scope provided by the application isolation layer on behalf of an application; and

(e) responding to the request for the native resource using the instance of the native resource ~~located in~~ associated with the application isolation scope.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(d) redirecting to the isolation environment a request for a native resource made by a second process executing on behalf of a first user;

(e) locating in the memory element an instance of the requested native resource ~~in~~ associated with the user isolation scope; and

(f) responding to the request for the native resource using the instance of the resource located ~~in~~ associated with the user isolation scope.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein step (e) comprises failing to locate an instance of the requested native resource ~~in~~ associated with the user isolation scope.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein step (f) comprises redirecting the request to locate an instance of the native resource associated with a second application isolation scope provided by the application isolation layer on behalf of a second application.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

(~~[[d]]~~g) locating an instance of the requested native resource ~~in~~ associated with the second application isolation scope; and

(~~[[e]]~~h) responding to the request for the native resource using the instance of the native resource ~~located in~~ associated with the second application isolation scope.

23. (Currently Amended) An ~~isolation environment~~ apparatus for isolating access by application programs to native resources provided by an operating system, the ~~isolation environment~~ apparatus comprising:

computer-readable program means for a user isolation scope storing associating an instance of a native resource provided by an operating system with a user isolation scope provided by an isolation environment comprising an application isolation layer and a user isolation layer, the user isolation scope corresponding to a user; and

computer-readable program means for a redirector intercepting a request for the a native resource made by a process executing on behalf of the user and redirecting the request to the instance of the resource associated with the user isolation scope.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 ~~wherein the~~ further comprising computer-readable program means for associating an instance of a native resource with isolation environment further comprises an application isolation scope provided by the isolation environment, the application isolation scope corresponding to an application storing an instance of the native resource.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable program means for associating an instance of a native resource with an application isolation scope isolation environment further comprises means for associating an instance of the native resource with a second application isolation scope, the second isolation scope corresponding to a second application storing an instance of the native resource.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable program means for intercepting a request ~~redirector~~ returns a handle to the requesting process that identifies the native resource.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable program means for a rules engine specifying behavior for the computer-readable program means for intercepting a request ~~redirector~~ when redirecting the request.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable program means for intercepting a request ~~redirector~~ comprises a file system filter driver.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable program means for intercepting a request ~~redirector~~ comprises a function hooking mechanism.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the function hooking mechanism

intercepts an operation selected from the group of file system operations, registry operations, operating system services, packing and installation services, named object operations, window operations, file-type association operations and Component Object Model (COM) server operations.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable program means for associating an instance of a native resource with a user isolation scope application isolation environment further comprises means for associating an instance of the native resource with a second user isolation scope ~~storing an instance of the native resource~~, the second user isolation scope corresponding to a second user.